



**University Housing**  
*Student Affairs*  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

SUBJECT: Welcome back!

Dear residents,

I hope you had a restful break! While you were gone, we were very busy improving our facilities across campus – the result of an initiative to complete intensive cleaning and maintenance across all 22 residence halls on campus.

The deep-cleaning work, which will continue throughout early January, included:

- Replacing or cleaning air filters
- Deep cleaning community bathrooms
- Cleaning targeted carpets
- Inspecting and replacing select caulk in public bathrooms
- Deep cleaning community kitchens, study lounges, lobbies and other common spaces
- Cleaning corridor, common area registers and grills
- Cleaning lighting fixtures
- Cleaning window and fan coil units

University Housing hired an outside contractor for air quality testing to conduct spore trap testing, as well as to take air temperature and humidity measurements at various testing locations.

A total of 138 tests were taken as a random sample across all 22 residence halls on campus. Only three tests came back with results showing above average spore levels at two residence halls on campus. One test was the result of moisture accumulating in a resident's personal dehumidifier that had not been emptied, while another was from an in-suite bathroom that had not been properly cleaned by residents. The third test was the result of an apparent roof leak, which has since been repaired by University Housing, with additional testing performed for adjacent rooms. University Housing has remediated the mold found from these tests and will continue to conduct additional tests to update readings. Results from additional air quality testing are expected later this month and will be analyzed to determine if further action is needed.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, mold is part of the natural environment and can be found everywhere, including indoors. While the EPA states that there is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in an indoor environment, moisture control is key.

We are returning to campus at a time when cases of COVID are once again on the rise in our local community, state, nation and world, making healthy living environments more important than ever. Residents play an important role in housing's efforts to address air quality issues and are encouraged to take proactive measures to prevent illness and mold and to report any areas of concern immediately to University Housing.

Additional guidance on these measures is available on University Housing's [Student Well-Being](#) page. Some of the steps students living in on-campus residences are encouraged to take include:

- Avoid tossing backpacks or clothes worn outside on beds to prevent spreading allergens to the sleeping area
- Hang damp or wet towels, bathmats, clothing or other items immediately on racks and allow items to dry completely. Do not hang damp or wet items over the furniture in the room or closet doors
- Keep windows and exterior doors closed when the air conditioner or heater is running to prevent condensation on vents
- Set thermostats no lower than 70 degrees when cooling and no higher than 74 degrees when heating your room; fans should be set on low speed
- Clean and dry any visible moisture on windows, walls and other surfaces immediately; never allow water to sit on soft surfaces (carpets, towels, sheets, etc.) for long periods of time
- Immediately report all maintenance and/or custodial issues by submitting a work request

University Housing will also begin more periodic inspections for mold during routine health and safety inspections, as well as continuing air quality and other testing measures as needed.

Wishing you a safe return to campus and an amazing spring semester,

Shari Crandall  
Director of Residential Programs and Services  
University Housing  
University of Georgia